(b) the future programme of drilling in the onshore and offshore areas of the Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE(SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Out of 15 exploratory wells drilled so far in Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Offshore) one well has proved to be gas bearing.

(b) Eleven blocks in offshore Andaman and Nicobar Islands are being offered under the Fourth Round of bidding for exploration for oil and gas.

Decline in Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir

5444. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH :
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of domestic and foreign tourists, separately visited Jammu and Kashmir during the lat three years, yearwise;

(b) the estimated loss due to the fall in tourist traffic in these years;

(c) the loss of foreign exchange to the Indian Airlines and Air India on this account and to the country during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revamp the tourism Industry in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) According to the information available from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited the State during the last three years are asgiven below :-

STATEMENT

	1. Kashmir Valley			2. Vaishnodevi
Year	Tourist Arrivals			Pilgrim Tourists
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	
1	2	3	4	5
1988	662,087	59,938	722,035	1,992,655
1989	490,215	67,762	557,977	2,312,001
1990	6,095	4,627	10,722	2,169,202

(b) and (c). As per the estimates available, the tourist expenditure in Kashmir Valley has declined by about 13.8% and 96.4% during 1989 and 1990 respectively. However no estimates are available on the loss incurred by various segments of tourism industry including Indian Arilines and Air India due to fall in tourist traffic to the State.

(d) Steps have been taken for attracting more tourists to Jammu and Kashmir by improving tourism infrastructure in different parts of the State.

School for Coach Repair Factory, Bhopal

5445. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no arrangement to provide educational facilities to the children of workers residing in the Coach Repair factory colony in Bhopal;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to start a school/central school there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Educational facilities already exist in the area. Another school will be opened if found necessary.

Tourism Facilities in Kerala

5446. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tourist spots in Kerala which have been brought on the international tourism map;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to attract more tourists for the events like Nehru Trophy Boat Race in Kerala; and

(c) the financial assistance given by the Government for the boat race and other tourists attracting events in Kerala and in other States?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Kerala has a profusion of tourist spots which are on the international tourism circuit such as Thiruvananthapuram, Kovalam, Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam, Thekkady, Cochin, Trichur, Guruvayur, etc.

(b) To attract more tourists, all the identified fairs and festivals of the country, which include Nehru Trophy Boat Race, are promoted both within the country and overseas.

(c) In 1990-91, financial assistance amounting to Rs. 81.25 lakhs was released to State Governments for various fairs and festivals in the country. Out of this, Rs. 4.00 lakhs were released to the State of Kerala. As regards the Nehru Trophy Boat Race, no request was received from the State Government for financial assistance. The Central Government is providing financial assistance for the construction of Nehru Memorial Pavilion in connection with the Boat Race.

Direct Train from New Delhi to Madurai

5447. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide direct train service between New Delhi and Madurai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.